



TITLE:

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CITATION:

SAKAI, Fumio. Normal Surfaces and Intersection Theory. 数理解析研究所講究録 1984, 535: 95-109

ISSUE DATE:

1984-09

URL:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2433/98661>

RIGHT:

Normal Surfaces and Intersection Theory

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In this note we develop geometry of normal surfaces by using the intersection theory introduced by Mumford [4]. We shall study the contraction criterion, the projection formula, the Noether formula, the vanishing theorem, the minimal model, the Miyaoka inequality, etc. Details will be discussed elsewhere.

Notation

A surface will mean an irreducible reduced compact complex space of dimension 2. A divisor will mean a Weil divisor (i.e., a linear combination of irreducible curves) unless otherwise specified. We use "birational morphism" instead of bimeromorphic morphism.

Y : a normal surface

X : a resolution of singularities of Y

$\text{Div}(Y)$: the group of divisors on Y

An element of $\text{Div}(Y, \mathbb{Q}) = \text{Div}(Y) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ is called a \mathbb{Q} -divisor.

Given a \mathbb{Q} -divisor $D = \sum \alpha_i C_i$ where the C_i are irreducible curves and $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{Q}$, we write as

$$[D] = \sum [\alpha_i] C_i \quad ([\alpha] \text{ is the greatest integer } \leq \alpha)$$

$$\{D\} = \sum \{\alpha_i\} C_i \quad (\{\alpha\} \text{ is the least integer } \geq \alpha)$$

1. Contraction criterion

Let Y be a normal surface. The intersection pairing $\text{Div}(Y) \times \text{Div}(Y) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}$ is defined as follows ([4]). Let $\pi: X \rightarrow Y$ be a resolution of singularities and let $A = \bigcup E_i$ denote the exceptional set of π . For a divisor D on Y we define the inverse image π^*D as

$$\pi^*D = \bar{D} + \sum \alpha_i E_i$$

where \bar{D} is the strict transform of D and the rational numbers α_i are uniquely determined by the equations: $\bar{D}E_j + \sum \alpha_i E_i E_j = 0$ for all j . For two divisors D and D' the intersection number DD' is defined to be the rational number $(\pi^*D)(\pi^*D')$.

A divisor D on Y is numerically equivalent to zero, denoted by $D \approx 0$, if $DC = 0$ for all curves C on Y . Two divisors D and D' are numerically equivalent, $D \approx D'$, if $D - D' \approx 0$. Set $N(Y, \mathbb{Q}) = (\text{Div}(Y)/\approx) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$. The Picard number $\rho(Y)$ of Y is the rank of the \mathbb{Q} -vector space $N(Y, \mathbb{Q})$. We have the equality: $\rho(Y) = \rho(X) - \rho(\pi)$ where $\rho(\pi)$ is the number of irreducible components of A .

The following is the normal surface version of the Grauert's contraction criterion theorem.

Theorem (1.1)(Contraction Criterion). Let C_1, \dots, C_k be irreducible curves on a normal surface Y . Then the union $\bigcup C_i$ can be contracted to normal points if and only if the intersection matrix $(C_i C_j)$ is negative definite.

Proof. By definition $\pi^*C_i = \bar{C}_i + Z_i$ with $\text{Supp}(Z_i) \subset A$. Let $G = \sum \alpha_i \bar{C}_i + Z$ be a \mathbb{Q} -divisor on X such that $\text{Supp}(Z) \subset A$. Write $G = \pi^*(\sum \alpha_i C_i) + Z'$ where $Z' = Z - \sum \alpha_i Z_i$. We find that $G^2 = (\sum \alpha_i C_i)^2 + Z'^2$. As a consequence the Grauert's theorem applied to X proves the assertion. Q.E.D.

We now consider a birational morphism $f: Y' \rightarrow Y$ between normal surfaces Y' and Y . We denote by A_f the exceptional set of f . Write $A_f = \cup C_i$. For a divisor D on Y the inverse image f^*D is also defined. As a corollary of the above criterion, we can write as

$$(1.2) \quad f^*D = \bar{D} + \sum \beta_i C_i$$

where \bar{D} is the strict transform of D by f and the rational numbers β_i are determined by the equations: $\bar{D}C_j + \sum \beta_i C_i C_j = 0$ for all j . We can prove that $\rho(Y') = \rho(Y) + \rho(f)$.

Definition (1.3). Let D be a \mathbb{Q} -divisor on a normal surface. We say that D is nef (numerically effective) if $DC \geq 0$ for all curves C on Y and that D is pseudo effective if $DP \geq 0$ for all nef divisors P on Y .

2. Projection formula

A coherent sheaf F on Y is reflexive if $F^{\vee\vee} \simeq F$ where F^\vee is the dual sheaf $\text{Hom}(F, \mathcal{O}_Y)$. A reflexive sheaf of rank one is called a divisorial sheaf. Set $Y_0 = Y \setminus \text{Sing } Y$ with the inclusion

$i:Y_0 \rightarrow Y$. A coherent sheaf F on Y_0 is said to be extendible if it extends to a coherent sheaf on Y . It is proved by Serre (Ann.Inst.Fourier 16) that if F is an extendible reflexive sheaf on Y_0 , then i_*F is a reflexive sheaf on Y , which is unique as a reflexive extension of F .

For a divisor D on Y the invertible sheaf $\mathcal{O}(D|_{Y_0})$ on Y_0 is extendible. Indeed the coherent sheaf $\pi_*\mathcal{O}(\bar{D})$ is an extension. It follows that the sheaf $i_*\mathcal{O}(D|_{Y_0})$ is a divisorial sheaf on Y . We denote it by $\mathcal{O}(D)$. Clearly $i_*i^*\mathcal{O}(D) \simeq \mathcal{O}(D)$. When Y is a Moisëzon, every divisorial sheaf is defined by a divisor. For a \mathbb{Q} -divisor D we understand that $\mathcal{O}(D) = \mathcal{O}([D])$. Two \mathbb{Q} -divisors D and D' are linearly equivalent, denoted by $D \sim D'$, if the difference $D - D'$ is a principal divisor of a non-zero meromorphic function. We have the equivalence: $D \sim D' \iff$ (i) $D - D'$ is integral, (ii) $\mathcal{O}(D) \simeq \mathcal{O}(D')$.

The following result connects the cohomological invariants of Y with those of X .

Theorem(2.1)(Projection Formula). Let D be a \mathbb{Q} -divisor on a normal surface Y . Let $\pi:X \rightarrow Y$ be a resolution. Then

$$\pi_*\mathcal{O}(\pi^*D) \simeq \mathcal{O}(D).$$

Outline of Proof. It is sufficient to consider the local situation. Let (V,y) be a normal surface singularity with a resolution $\pi:U \rightarrow V$. As before let $A = \bigcup E_i$ denote the exceptional set of π . There is an exact sequence originated by Laufer:

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(U, \mathcal{O}(\pi^*D)) \rightarrow H^0(U \setminus A, \mathcal{O}(\pi^*D)) \rightarrow H_C^1(U, \mathcal{O}(\pi^*D)).$$

Since $H^0(U \setminus A, \mathcal{O}(\pi^*D)) \simeq H^0(V \setminus Y, \mathcal{O}(D)) \simeq H^0(V, \mathcal{O}(D))$, the assertion follows from the vanishing: $H_C^1(U, \mathcal{O}(\pi^*D)) = 0$. By duality we have $H_C^1(U, \mathcal{O}(\pi^*D)) \simeq H^1(U, \mathcal{O}(K + \{-\pi^*D\}))$ where the K is a canonical divisor of U . So we can complete the proof by the following

Theorem (2.2)(Local Vanishing Theorem). Let D be a \mathbb{Q} -divisor on U . Suppose that $DE_j \geq 0$ for all j . Then

$$R^1 \pi_* \mathcal{O}(K + \{D\}) = 0.$$

Remark. In the algebraic context, Theorems (2.1) and (2.2) hold in all characteristics.

Theorem (2.3)(Generalized Projection Formula). Let $f: Y' \rightarrow Y$ be a birational morphism of normal surfaces. Let D be a \mathbb{Q} -divisor on Y and let Z be an effective \mathbb{Q} -divisor supported on the exceptional set A_f . Then

$$f_* \mathcal{O}(f^*D + Z) \simeq \mathcal{O}(D).$$

3. \mathbb{Q} -divisor Δ

We study the inverse image of a canonical divisor. Let (V, y) be a normal surface singularity with a resolution $\pi: U \rightarrow V$. Let $A = \bigcup E_i$ denote the exceptional set. If K is a canonical divisor of U , then $K_V = \pi_* K$ is a canonical divisor of V . Now define a \mathbb{Q} -divisor $\Delta = \sum \delta_i E_i$ by the equations: $KE_i + \sum \delta_i E_i E_j = 0$ for all j . We infer from the definition in Sect.1 that

$$(3.1) \quad \pi^* K_V = K + \Delta.$$

When π is the minimal resolution in the sense that there is no exceptional curve of the first kind in A , it can be shown that $\Delta \geq 0$ and that $\Delta = 0 \iff y$ is a rational double point. We introduce the following numerical invariants:

$$(3.2) \quad \begin{aligned} h(y) &= \dim R^1 \pi_* \mathcal{O}_U && \text{(the genus)} \\ \mu(y) &= e(A) + \Delta^2 - 1 + 12h(y) && \text{(the Milnor number)} \end{aligned}$$

where $e(A)$ is the Euler number of A . Note that $\mu(y) \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Example (3.3). Let us examine the case in which the weighted dual graph of the exceptional set of the minimal good resolution is a star and only the central curve (if exists) may have positive genus. This is the case if the singularity has a good \mathbb{C}^* -action (Orlik-Wagreich).

(a) cyclic quotient singularity.

The weighted dual graph is a chain of \mathbb{P}^1 's.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} E_1 & & E_2 & & E_n \\ o & \text{---} & o & \text{---} & o \\ -a_1 & & -a_2 & & -a_n \end{array}$$

Define $d/e = [a_1, \dots, a_n] = a_1 - \frac{1}{a_2 - \frac{1}{\ddots - \frac{1}{a_n}}}$

Consider the equations: $X_{k+1} = a_k X_k - X_{k-1}$. Let $\{c_{ik}\}, \{c'_{ik}\}$ be two solutions as

$$c_0 = d, c_1 = e, \dots, \text{ then } c_n = 1, c_{n+1} = 0,$$

$$c'_0 = 0, c'_1 = 1, \dots, \text{ then } c'_n = e', c'_{n+1} = d \quad (ee' = 1 \bmod d).$$

We have $c_k \geq 0, c'_k \geq 0$. By a calculation (cf. Knöller, Math. Ann. 213),

$$(3.4) \quad \Delta = \sum (1 - (c_k + c'_k)/d) E_k$$

$$\mu = n + 4 - \nu - (e + e' + 2)/d$$

where ν is the multiplicity of y , which is equal to $\sum (a_i - 2) + 2$.

(b) a star with a central curve E_0 with genus g . There are finite number of branches of chains of \mathbb{P}^1 's, E_{ij} $j=1, \dots, n_i$. Let $E_0^2 = -a_0, E_{ij}^2 = -a_{ij}$ ($a_{ij} \geq 2$). Define $d_i/e_i = [a_{i1}, \dots, a_{in_i}]$, $\{c_{ik}\}, \{c'_{ik}\}$ as above. The negative definiteness of the intersection matrix implies $a_0 - \sum e_i/d_i > 0$. With these notation we get

$$(3.5) \quad \Delta = \sum (1 - ((1 - \delta_0)c_{ik} + c'_{ik})/d_i) E_{ik} + \delta_0 E_0,$$

where

$$\delta_0 = 1 + \frac{\sum (1 - 1/d_i) + 2g - 2}{a_0 - \sum e_i/d_i}.$$

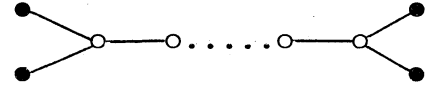
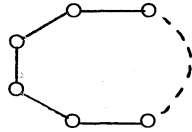
Example (3.6). Assume π is the minimal good resolution. Those singularities having the property: $\delta_i \leq 1$ for all i , have been classified by K. Watanabe (Math. Ann. 250) and by Y. Kawamata (in somewhat different context, Lecture Notes in Math. 732,

Springer). We give the list. Here \circ denotes a non-singular rational curve and \bullet denotes a non-singular rational curve with self-intersection -2 . Cf. Wagreich (Topology 11).

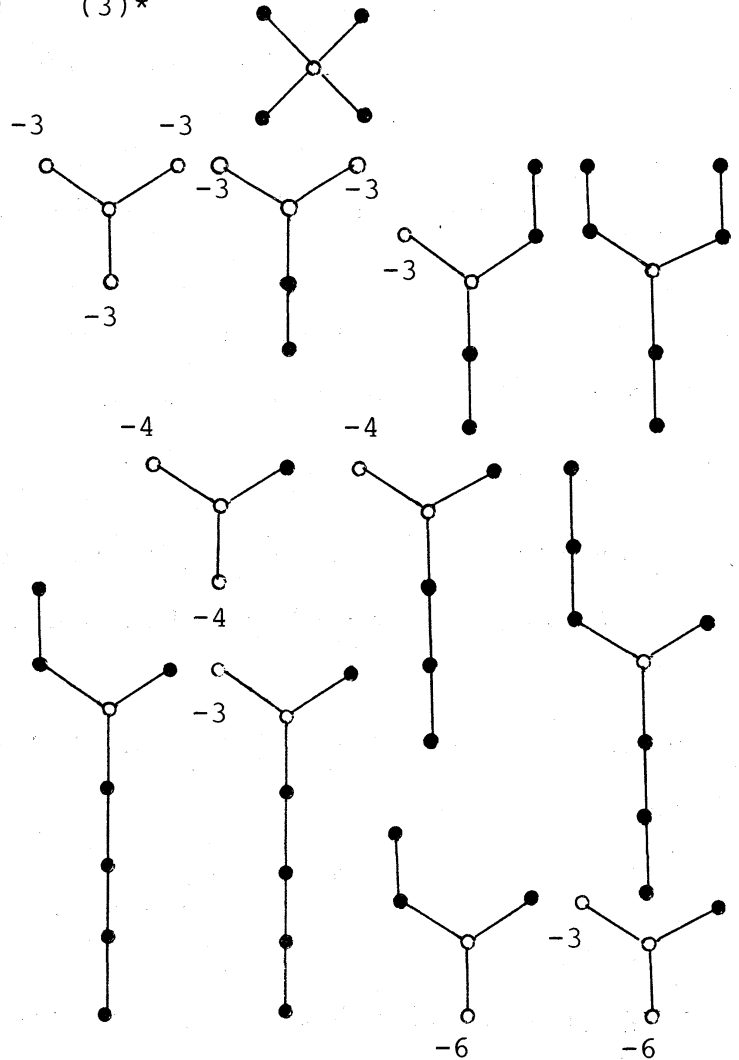
Table (3.7) (Singularities with $\delta_i \leq 1$ for all i).

(1) smooth point (1)* quotient singularities

(2) cusp singularities (2)*



(3) simple elliptic (3)*
singularities



(quotients of simple
elliptic singularities)

The proof proceeds as follows. It turns out that π coincides with the minimal resolution except the case $\circ \circ -1$. If A is a single curve, it is either \mathbb{P}^1 or an elliptic curve. We consider the case in which A has more than one component. Assume y is not a rational double point. If A' is a proper subset of A , letting Δ' be the \mathbb{Q} -divisor associated to A' , then we must have $\Delta > \Delta'$. We infer from this that every component of A is \mathbb{P}^1 . Next one shows that A is a star except the cases (2), (2)*. In case A is a chain, every coefficient of Δ is less than one (cf.(3.4)). In case A is a star with a central curve, we deduce from (3.5) that $\delta_0 \leq 1 \iff \sum (1 - 1/d_i) \leq 2$. Looking in the coefficients of Δ the condition $\delta_0 \leq 1$ implies that all other coefficients are less than one. The inequality $\sum (1 - 1/d_i) \leq 2$ has finite possibilities of d_i , which correspond to the cases (1)* and (3)*:

$$(1)^* \quad (2,2,d), (2,3,3), (2,3,4), (2,3,5)$$

$$(3)^* \quad (2,2,2,2), (3,3,3), (2,4,4), (2,3,6).$$

Remark. The above singularities (3) and (3)* have appeared as ball cusp singularities ([2]). The case $(1)^* \iff \delta_i < 1$ for all i .

4. Noether formula, vanishing theorem

We come back to study normal surfaces. Let Y be a normal surface and let $\pi: X \rightarrow Y$ be a resolution with A the exceptional set. For the sake of simplicity, we assume that X has a canonical divisor K . This is the case if X is projective, or equivalently if Y is Moisëzon. In general we have to deal with the canonical line bundle. For this argument, we refer to [6].

Since $\pi_* K$ becomes a canonical divisor of Y , we denote it by K_Y . If $\text{Sing } Y = \bigcup y_i$, let Δ_i be the \mathbb{Q} -divisor associated to y_i supported on $A_i = \pi^{-1}(y_i)$. Write $\Delta = \sum \Delta_i$. By (3.1) we have $\pi^* K_Y = K + \Delta$ and hence

$$(4.1) \quad K_Y^2 = K^2 - \Delta^2.$$

Theorem (4.2) (Noether Formula). Let Y be a normal surface. Then

$$\chi(\mathcal{O}_Y) = \frac{1}{12} (K_Y^2 + e(Y) + \sum \mu(y_i))$$

where $e(Y)$ is the Euler number of Y .

Proof. Recall the Noether formula for X :

$$\chi(\mathcal{O}_X) = \frac{1}{12} (K^2 + e(X)).$$

We have the following relations of Euler numbers:

$$e(X) = e(X \setminus A) + e(A) = e(Y \setminus \text{Sing } Y) + e(A) = e(Y) + \sum (e(A_i) - 1).$$

On the other hand $\chi(\mathcal{O}_Y) = \chi(\mathcal{O}_X) + \dim R^1 \pi_* \mathcal{O}_X$. Combining these with (4.1) and the definition of μ , we get the required result.

Q.E.D.

For the Riemann-Roch formula for divisorial sheaves, see [1]. We shall state the vanishing results.

Theorem (4.3) (Generalized Ramanujam Vanishing Theorem).

Let Y be a normal Moisëzon surface. Let D be a nef \mathbb{Q} -divisor with $D^2 > 0$ on Y . Then

$$H^i(Y, \mathcal{O}(K_Y + \{D\})) = 0 \quad \text{for } i > 0.$$

Proof. This follows from the corresponding vanishing theorem for X , combined with the local vanishing theorem and the projection formula (for details see [6]). Q.E.D.

The local vanishing theorem can be generalized as follows.

Theorem (4.4). Let $f:Y \rightarrow Y'$ be a birational morphism of normal surfaces. If D is a relatively nef \mathbb{Q} -divisor on Y , then

$$R^1 f_* \mathcal{O}(K_Y + \{D\}) = 0.$$

Corollary. In particular we have $R^1 f_* \mathcal{O}(K_Y) = 0$, which is a generalization of the Grauert-Riemenschneiders's vanishing theorem.

5. Minimal model

Let Y be a normal surface and D a divisor on Y . For every positive integer m we infer from the projection formula that $\dim H^0(Y, \mathcal{O}(mD)) = \dim H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(m\pi^*D))$. We define the D -dimension of Y , denoted by $\kappa(D, Y)$, to be $\kappa(\pi^*D, X)$.

Definition.

$$P_m(Y) = \dim H^0(Y, \mathcal{O}(mK_Y)) \quad (\text{the arithmetic } m\text{-genus})$$

$$\kappa(Y) = \kappa(K_Y, Y) \quad (\text{the arithmetic Kodaira dimension})$$

Let (Y, D) be a pair of a normal surface Y and a \mathbb{Q} -divisor D on Y . Such a pair is called a normal pair. We say that (Y, D)

is (relatively) minimal if Y contains no irreducible curves C with $DC < 0$, $C^2 < 0$. A birational morphism $f: (Y, D) \rightarrow (Y', D')$ is a birational morphism $f: Y \rightarrow Y'$ satisfying $f_*D = D'$. Write as $D = f_*D' + R$ where $\text{Supp}(R) \subset A_f$. We say that f is totally discrepant if every irreducible component of A_f appears in R with positive coefficient. Given a normal pair (Y, D) , a minimal normal pair (Y', D') is called its minimal model if there is a totally discrepant birational morphism $f: (Y, D) \rightarrow (Y', D')$. In this case, by the projection formula (2.3) we get $H^0(Y, \mathcal{O}(mD)) \cong H^0(Y', \mathcal{O}(mD'))$ for every positive integer m , hence $\kappa(D, Y) = \kappa(D', Y')$.

Theorem (5.1). Every normal pair has a minimal model. Furthermore, if D is pseudo effective, then (Y, D) admits a unique minimal model (Y', D') and D' is nef.

Proof. Let (Y, D) be a normal pair. Suppose it is not minimal. Then it contains an irreducible curve C with $DC < 0$, $C^2 < 0$. Let $\varphi: Y \rightarrow Y_1$ be the contraction of C . If we put $D_1 = \varphi_*D$, by (1.2) we find that $D = \varphi_*D_1 + (DC/C^2)C$. It follows from the hypothesis that $D > \varphi_*D_1$. Note that $\rho(Y_1) = \rho(Y) - 1$. Thus by a finite number of successive such contractions we arrive at a minimal model (for the latter assertion see [6]). Q.E.D.

Corollary (Zariski Decomposition). Let (Y, D) be a normal pair. Suppose D is pseudo effective. Let $(Y', D'; f)$ be its minimal model. If we write $P = f_*D'$, then the decomposition

$$D = P + N$$

satisfies the following properties: (i) P is nef, (ii) N is

effective and $\text{Supp}(N)$ is contracted by f . Furthermore, such decomposition is unique.

We talk of a pair $(X, K+D)$ where X is a smooth surface and D is a reduced curve with normal crossings. If (Y, K_Y+B) is its minimal model, then Y has only quotient singularities (cf.[8]). Indeed, write as $K+D=f^*(K_Y+B)+R$, $\Delta=\Delta^+-\Delta^-$, then $D+\Delta^-=\Delta^++f^*B+R$. Since f is totally discrepant, every coefficient of $\Delta^+<1$.

For normal surfaces a birational morphism $f:Y \rightarrow Y'$ is totally discrepant if $f:(Y, K_Y) \rightarrow (Y', K_{Y'})$ is totally discrepant in the above sense. In this case we have $P_m(Y)=P_m(Y')$ for $m>0$ and $\kappa(Y)=\kappa(Y')$. We say that Y is minimal if the pair (Y, K_Y) is minimal. Also Y' is a minimal model of Y if (i) Y' is minimal, (ii) there is a totally discrepant birational morphism $f:Y \rightarrow Y'$. Theorem (5.1) asserts that every normal surface has a minimal model. We are thus reduced to study minimal normal surfaces. If Y is minimal, then either (i) K_Y is not pseudo effective, or (ii) K_Y is nef. For further discussions and classification theory, we refer to [7] (for the Gorenstein case see [5]).

Example (5.2). Let B be a non-singular curve of genus $g \geq 2$. Let $X=\mathbb{P}(E)$ be a ruled surface defined by a rank 2 vector bundle E on B . Suppose E is normalized as in the book of Hartshorne. Set $\mathfrak{e}=\det E$, $e=-\deg \mathfrak{e}$. There is a base section b with $b^2=-e$. Suppose $e>0$. Let $\pi:X \rightarrow Y$ be the contraction of b . Since $\rho(Y)=1$, Y is of course minimal. We have $\pi^*K_Y=K+\Delta=((2g-2-e)/e)b+p^*(k+\mathfrak{e})$ where $p:X \rightarrow B$ is the projection map and k denotes a canonical divisor of B . It follows that $K_Y^2=(2g-2)^2/e \geq 0$ and $e(Y)=3-2g<0$.

There occur three cases: (i) K_Y is nef (if $e < 2g-2$), (ii) $K_Y \approx 0$ (if $e = 2g-2$), (iii) $-K_Y$ is nef (if $e > 2g-2$).

Finally we mention about the Miyaoka inequality. We recall the following recent result (Miyaoka [3]): Let X be a smooth projective surface and D a divisor having normal crossings on X . Suppose $K+D$ is pseudo effective and let $K+D=P+N$ be the Zariski decomposition. Then

$$(5.3) \quad (K+D)^2 - \frac{1}{4}N^2 \leq 3e(X \setminus D).$$

We deal with normal surfaces whose singularities are contained in Table (3.7). Notice that there $\{(2), (3)\}$ are elliptic singularities and $\{(1)^*, (2)^*, (3)^*\}$ are rational singularities. We want to point out two facts.

(5.4) (i) $\kappa(Y) \geq 0$ if and only if K_Y is pseudo effective.

(ii) If K_Y is nef, then

$$\frac{3}{2} \# \text{ rat.Sing } Y + 3 \# \text{ ellip.Sing } Y + K_Y^2 \leq 3e(Y).$$

In particular, we have $e(Y) \geq 0$.

We show (ii). Let $\pi: X \rightarrow Y$ be the minimal resolution. As noticed in Example (3.6), the exceptional set $A = \bigcup E_i$ has normal crossings. If we write $D = \sum E_i$, then $D - \Delta \geq 0$. The pseudo effectiveness of K_Y implies that of $K+D$. Clearly, $e(X \setminus D) = e(Y) - \# \text{ Sing } Y$. On the other hand $(K+D)^2 = (K+\Delta)^2 + (D-\Delta)^2$ and

$$(D-\Delta)^2 = (K+D)D - \Delta(D-\Delta) \geq (K+D)D = -2 \# \text{ rat.Sing } Y.$$

If K_Y is nef, we get $P = \pi^* K_Y$ and so $N = D - \Delta$. By (5.3) we get (ii).

When Y has worse singularities, this is not necessarily the case. For instance in Example (5.2), if $e < 2g - 2$, then K_Y is nef and $\kappa(Y) = 2$, but $e(Y) < 0$.

In the case of quotient singularities, a more precise result can be found in [3].

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